

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to FIG. 2B. The sheet containing FIG. 2B replaces the original sheet including FIG. 2B presently of record. In amended FIG. 2B, Applicant has added reference numeral 250 to identify the blocking element. This change does not introduce new matter.

REMARKS

Applicant requests clarification of the status of claims 7-9, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. These claims depend from claim 6, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3 are the independent claims.

Claims 3, 4, and 6 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action objected to the title. In response, Applicant has amended the title in a manner believed to be even more descriptive of the claimed subject matter.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the drawings for allegedly failing to include the blocking element recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully disagree with the contention that the blocking element was not shown. However, Applicant has amended FIG. 2B to identify the blocking element by reference numeral 250.

Applicant has amended paragraph [0020] of the Specification to mention blocking element 250.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 404037313(Iwaki). Claims 6, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Iwaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, a disc cartridge including a shutter and a reference surface having a reference area and a low area formed in the reference surface.

Independent claim 3 now recites, inter alia, that a disc cartridge includes a shutter that is moveable on a surface with a low area formed therein.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Iwaki does not teach at least the aforementioned features.

Iwaki relates to a disk device and describes an arrangement including a box body 1 with an extendable tray 2 having a support plate 6 and guide projecting sections 8. Additionally, disk

cartridge 3 has a shutter 3f, a reference surface, and recessed sections 3a, recessed from the reference surface and corresponding to guide projecting sections 8. When disk cartridge is properly inserted into tray 2, guide projecting sections 8 are housed within recessed sections 3a and tray 2 can convey disk cartridge 3 into the box body 1. Conversely, when disk cartridge is not properly inserted into tray 2, guide projecting sections 8 engage the reference surface and raise the disc cartridge 3 such that if tray 2 attempts to convey disk cartridge 3 into box body 1, disk cartridge 3 encounters projecting section 10. (Iwaki, Abstract; FIGS. 1-3).

The Office Action contends that the recessed sections 3a are low areas. (Office Action, page 3). However, as illustrated in FIG. 2 of Iwaki, the recessed sections 3a are separated from the reference surface on which the shutter 3f moves. Thus, these alleged low areas cannot meet the aforementioned features of independent claims 1 and 3 since they are not included in the reference surface on which the shutter moves.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection under § 103, Applicant respectfully submits that the aforementioned express teaching of a recessed area 3a separated from the reference surface precludes Iwaki from suggesting the aforementioned features of independent claims 1 and 3.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

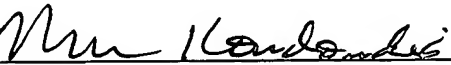
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-29-06

By: 
Michael E. Kondoudis
Registration No. 42,758

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501